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LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of a statement issued on 22 May 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on the gas pipeline explosions of 21 May 1995

At 2240 hours on 21 May 1995, two explosions destroyed the natural gas pipeline feeding Armenia and traversing the Azeri-populated Marneuli district of the Georgian territory. The simultaneous acts - one on the River Kur, the other on the River Khram - stopped the flow of natural gas to Armenia for the fourth time this year.

This constitutes the sixteenth such explosion since May 1992. During that period, there have also been 34 acts of sabotage affecting the railway operations into Armenia, including seven explosions of the rail bridge on the Khram River connecting Armenia with Georgia. As a result of these acts of sabotage, the Republic has been deprived of its only source of natural gas for close to 200 days and the economy of the country has suffered incalculable damage.

The Government of Armenia has stated clearly that the normal functioning of communications through Georgia constitutes a matter of national security for Armenia. Armenia has issued a number of warnings with regard to the consequences of continued acts of international terrorism, which, on the basis of evidence at its disposal, it is confident are being committed by agents of the Azerbaijani Government. The Government of Armenia has warned the international community of the impact such acts could have on the negotiating process. It has invited the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to send a commission to the region on a fact-finding mission. The Government of Armenia has also expected that Azerbaijan and OSCE will provide guarantees that such acts will not continue to occur.

Despite the danger that such acts present to the cease-fire and negotiating process, and the warnings which have been issued, including President Ter-Petrossian's statement at the Budapest Summit on 5 December 1994, no steps have been taken to correct the situation. The Azerbaijani Government continues to hide behind the OSCE Minsk Group negotiations while continuing to commit acts of international terrorism. These, Armenia considers acts of war, contrary to the letter and spirit of the cease-fire agreement, and to all the unilateral goodwill actions taken by Armenia to create a favourable atmosphere for negotiations to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The Government of Armenia declares, therefore, that it is suspending its participation in the OSCE Minsk Group negotiations with the expectation that OSCE and the international community will provide adequate guarantees that Azerbaijan will put an end to these grave violations of the cease-fire and acts of international terrorism. The Government of Armenia will reconsider its decision when such guarantees are provided.

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SMALL STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 22 May 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador on 19 May 1995 (see annex I), which expresses the Ministry's views regarding the statement by the Guarantor Countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol on the peace process between Ecuador and Peru of 1942, drawn up in Brasilia on the same date (see annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX I

Press release issued on 19 May 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador

This afternoon, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador received the statement by the Guarantor Countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942 on the peace process between Ecuador and Peru, in which the Guarantor Countries note with satisfaction that it was possible to follow the path of a peaceful solution to the conflict between the two countries, a conflict which "constitutes a threat to the peace and prosperity of the region".

The statement notes that the results achieved are a consequence of the Guarantor Countries' political commitment at various levels. Ecuador is grateful for such efforts and has joined them with the firm conviction that peace is the supreme good and must be safeguarded in relations between States.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to emphasize the importance of paragraphs 6 and 7 of the statement. Paragraph 6 states that the Coordinator of the Ecuador-Peru Military Observer Mission will transmit to the Parties a recommendation on the establishment of the zone to be demilitarized. Paragraph 7 leaves open the possibility of extending the Observer Mission's initial 90-day mandate "if the Parties so desire".

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should like to reiterate that the Government of Ecuador promptly informed the Guarantor Countries of its position regarding the demilitarized zone in order to provide the necessary background for their recommendation which, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Statement, will be transmitted to General César Durán, the Liaison Officer between Ecuador and the Mission.

On 16 May 1995, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs transmitted to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States of America its request for a 90-day extension of the Observer Mission in view of the continuing precariousness of the situation in the border zone.

The Guarantor Countries appeal to the Parties to comply with the commitment undertaken in the Itamaraty Peace Declaration to "initiate bilateral talks in order to find a lasting solution to the remaining impasses", and also support a relaxation of bilateral relations, the normalization of border trade and the creation, through dialogue, of the "conditions necessary for consolidating peace within a positive dynamic process based on good faith and mutual trust, in accordance with the desires of the international community".

As public opinion is well aware, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has maintained its position to pursue, in the most appropriate manner, the process of separation of forces, demobilization and demilitarization as provided in the Itamaraty Peace Declaration with a view to creating a climate conducive to the eventual negotiation of a just and fitting agreement on the solution of the territorial issue with Peru.

ANNEX II

Statement by the Guarantor Countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942 on the peace process between Ecuador and Peru, drawn up in Brasilia on 19 May 1995

1. The Guarantor Countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942 (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States of America) met at the level of high-ranking officials in Brasilia from 17 to 19 May 1995 in order to evaluate the implementation of the Itamaraty Peace Declaration of 17 February 1995.

2. The Guarantor Countries noted with satisfaction that it was possible, within the framework of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol of 1942, to follow the path of a peaceful solution to the conflict between two American nations, which constitutes a threat to the peace and prosperity of the region.

3. The positive results achieved are in keeping with the political commitment of the Guarantor Countries, which, throughout intense diplomatic negotiations conducted at various levels, including that of heads of State, have been endeavouring to maintain peace between the Parties.

4. As an indication of the new stage in the peace process, the Observer Mission is about to complete its mandate. The total separation of forces in the area of the conflict was achieved on 3 May and a gradual and reciprocal demobilization was completed on 13 May.

5. The Guarantors expressed their appreciation for the high sense of professional duty on the part of the military contingents which make up the Ecuador-Peru Military Observer Mission as well as the good political will and cooperation of the Parties.

6. In order to implement point 3 of the Peace Declaration, the Guarantor Countries will instruct the Observer Mission, through their Coordinator, to transmit to the Parties through the liaison officers, a recommendation on the establishment of a zone to be totally demilitarized.

7. They recalled point 1 of the Peace Declaration, which provided that the initial duration of the Observer Mission in the area of conflict would be 90 days. In order to monitor subsequent stages in the peace process and promote a climate of understanding, the Guarantor Countries express their readiness to maintain - if the Parties so desire - the presence of the Observer Mission. To that end, they deem it necessary to adapt the Mission's size and mandate to the current conditions in the peace process. The military representatives of the Parties should participate to a greater extent in this new stage of the Observer Mission. The terms and time-frame for the continuation of the Mission would be the subject of appropriate agreements with the Parties, as provided for under the Peace Declaration.

8. The Guarantor Countries reiterate once again that they consider it essential for the Parties to carry out, in the short term, the commitment undertaken in the Itamaraty Peace Declaration to initiate bilateral talks in order to find a lasting solution to the remaining impasses.

9. Reaffirming their statement of 17 February 1995, the Guarantor Countries express, moreover, the strong commitment to continue their efforts, assistance and cooperation with the Parties until the Itamaraty Peace Declaration is fully implemented.

10. In this regard, they recommend that the Parties should accept the offer by the International Committee of the Red Cross to use its good offices in order to facilitate the exchange of civilian and military prisoners and carry out other activities of a humanitarian nature.

11. They also call upon the Parties to take concrete and effective steps to remove the explosive devices that have been causing the loss of human life.

12. They urge the Parties to take initiatives aimed at bringing about a gradual relaxation in bilateral relations, such as the normalization of border trade, bearing in mind the legitimate aspirations of their peoples, development and common prosperity.

13. In order to strengthen peace and friendship between the Parties, the Guarantor Countries call upon them to create, without further delay, by means of a free-flowing diplomatic dialogue, the conditions necessary for consolidating peace within a positive dynamic process based on good faith and the promotion of mutual trust, in accordance with the desires of the international community.